

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein the manifold has linear form, and is fixed or moved vertically.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claims ~~10~~ 19, wherein the manifold has a ring form, and is rotated.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein the connector is movable in the vertical direction.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein each blood collecting tube is held by a rack.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, further comprising a grasp means for elevating each blood collecting tube to connect each blood filter unit to the connector.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein each blood filter unit filters blood in an upward direction.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein each blood filter unit further comprises a filtrate receiver placed above and communicating with the filter chamber.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein the connector includes a flexible or elastic material where it contacts the suction port in order to ensure an airtight connection.

Claim 19 (New): A continuous blood filtration apparatus for separating plasma or serum from whole blood, the apparatus comprising:

blood filter units, each comprising a suction nozzle, a filter chamber communicating with the suction nozzle and having a volume of 0.5 to 2.5 ml, a suction port communicating with the filter chamber and a glass fiber filter in the filter chamber;

blood collecting tubes for containing whole blood and having an opening for receiving and holding a blood filter unit placed through the opening such that the opening of the suction nozzle is below a surface of whole blood contained in the collecting tubes;

a manifold connected to a suction line, the manifold having a plurality of branches, each branch having a valve and a connector for connecting an end of each branch to a suction port of a blood filter unit;

a conveyor for conveying blood collecting tubes containing a blood filter unit to a connector such that the suction port of the blood filter unit is facing the connector; and

a means for moving the blood collecting tube containing the blood filter unit of which the suction port is facing the connector or the connector in a vertical direction to connect the suction port of the blood filter unit with the connector such that when a vacuum is applied through the manifold, blood is drawn from the blood collecting tube into the blood filter unit to filter the blood through the glass fiber and for moving the blood collecting tube or the connector to release the suction port from the connector after blood filtration is finished or after an amount of plasma or serum necessary for measuring by an automatic analyzer has been filtered.